

International Preliminary Report
Regarding Patentability
(supplemental sheet)

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Re Section V

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Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting this statement

Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: DE2001163A

D2: EP1318064A

Document D1 discloses a supporting frame having all of the features included in Claim 1, that is (the references in parentheses refer to this document), having a front part, a center part, and a rear part; the center part being constructed as a truss to have at least two upper chords (5) and at least two lower chords (5), and forming a box-shaped cross-section (cf. Fig. 1 and 3) when viewed in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle; and the front part and the rear part being formed like a ladder frame, having a right and left longitudinal member segment (1, 10), the longitudinal member segments having a U-like cross-section (cf. Fig. 4 and 5) when viewed in the longitudinal direction of the vehicle.

Therefore, the present Application does not satisfy the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject matter of Claim 1 is not novel within the meaning of Article 33 (2) PCT.

The features of dependent Claims 6, 7, and 10 are also known from D1.

Dependent Claims 2 through 5 do not appear to include any features that, in combination with the features of any claim to which they relate, fulfill the requirements of

the PCT with regard to inventive step; see document D2 and the corresponding passages indicated in the Search Report. In particular, the provision of upper chords and lower chords having legs that extend outwards instead of inwards does not appear to be inventive.

The combination of features contained in dependent Claims 8 and 9 is neither known from the existing related art nor rendered obvious by it.